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substantially continuous profile, and wherein the movable upper portion and the fixed base portion define means for an operator to resist effects of external forces via one hand while maintaining control of the movable upper portion with said one hand.

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3. (Amended) A split grip control lever according to claim 2, wherein the control device is disposed at a substantially central position relative to the substantially continuous profile such that a pivot point of the control shaft is centrally disposed relative to the substantially continuous profile.

4. (Amended) A split grip control lever according to claim 2, wherein the fixed base portion is fixedly securable to a surface, and wherein the control device is disposed at a position spaced from the surface at a substantially central position relative to the substantially continuous profile.

A3
10. (Amended) A control lever for machinery comprising:
a fixed based portion fixedly securable to a surface of the machinery; and
a control portion disposed adjacent the fixed base portion and movable relative to the fixed base portion, the control portion being separated from the fixed base portion via a split line and being contiguous with the fixed base portion to define a substantially continuous profile, wherein the fixed base portion and the control portion define means for an operator to resist effects of external forces via one hand while maintaining control of the control portion with said one hand.

A4
14. (Amended) A machine comprising:
a machine frame supporting at least one movable element; and
a control lever secured to the machine frame, the control lever comprising:

a fixed base portion fixedly secured to the machine frame, the fixed base portion providing support for an operator to resist effects of external movements resulting from movement of the machine, and

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a movable upper portion that is separately pivotable relative to the fixed base portion for controlling movement of the at least one movable element, wherein the movable upper portion and the fixed base portion define a substantially continuous profile.

Please add new claims 18 and 19 as follows:

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18. (New) A split grip control lever according to claim 1, wherein the movable upper portion and the fixed base portion define an ergonomic profile.

19. (New) A control lever according to claim 10, wherein the control portion and the fixed base portion define an ergonomic profile.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 7-19 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 10 and 14 have been amended, claims 5 and 6 have been canceled, and claims 18 and 19 have been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

With reference to the Office Action, the drawings were objected to in paragraph 1. With respect to the control device coupled to the control shaft, Applicant respectfully submits that this feature is shown in, for example, Figure 2. As described in the present specification, Figure 2 shows a control shaft 26 coupled with the control device 24. With